Punjab has also been allocated two growth centres under the new scheme.

During the years 1985-86 to 1987-88, financial institutions have disbursed the following amounts to Punjab:—

Disbursed in crores (Rs.)

	Punjab	Total disbursed	%age
1985-86	109.13	4657.53	2.3
1986-87	164.82	5401.01	3.1
1987-88	262.66	6600.91	4

Floating of companies by Peerless General Finance and investment company

@1349. PROF C. LAKSHMANNA: Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Peerless General Finance and Investment Company has floated three companies viz., Peerless Drive (Private) limited, Peerless Developing Limited and Peerless Finance Service Limited;

(b) if so, to what extent the assets of the parent organisation have been utilised in setting up these companies;

(c) whether approval of the Central Government was sought in the matter; and

(d) if so, the specific areas in which these companies are supposed to function?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI- M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (d) The information is be'ng collected and will be laid "on the Tabl- of the House.

@ Previously Unstarred Question 330 transferred from the 20th July, 1989.

Increase in the prices of cement

@@1350. SHRI MURLIDHAR CHANDRAKANT BHANDARE; Will the Minister of INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it U a fact that following the withdrawal of levy quota of cement and dispensing with the fair price distribution of cement, the open market prices of cement have been soaring very high, much against expectations;

(b) if so, the extent of increase in open market cement prices registered so far since the withdrawal of levy quota, indicating the earlier and the latest prevailing prices; and

(c) what steps have been taken and are being taken to protect the consumers' interests?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF INDUSTRIAL DEVELOPMENT IN THE MINISTRY OF INDUSTRY (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM): (a) to (c) There was an increase

@ (SPreviously Unstarred Question 447 transferred from the 2vet July, 1989.